

SENATE RESOLUTION 41
By Womack

A RESOLUTION to honor James Brockman (Brock) Sanders, Jr.
on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should honor those Tennesseans who through their diligence and dedication have made significant achievements in their chosen fields and who have realized significant milestones in their distinguished careers; and

WHEREAS, James Brockman Sanders, Jr., is one such outstanding person who has been a leader in the business and civic life of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County for many years; he has given unreservedly of himself to ensure the betterment of life in his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders, Executive Director of the United Way of Rutherford County, will answer the tantalizing call of retirement on April 15, 1996, after fifteen years of service that stands unparalleled in excellence; and

WHEREAS, a native of Rutherford County, Mr. Sanders attended the Training School, now the Campus School, and graduated from Central High School, where he lettered for four years in basketball and three years in football and was an active participant in numerous extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, upon being awarded a scholarship to play football, Mr. Sanders entered the University of Tennessee in 1952; he was fortunate to have had the opportunity to play for the legendary UT coach, General Robert Neyland, who nicknamed Mr. Sanders "Midg"; and

WHEREAS, during his collegiate career, Brock Sanders was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and was an Air Force ROTC cadet Wing Commander; upon his graduation in September of 1956, Mr. Sanders was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force as a result of his participation in ROTC; and

WHEREAS, Brock Sanders returned to his hometown in 1956 and became an assistant basketball and football coach at Central High School under his high school coach, Mr. Lee Pate, a man who Brock describes as “the greatest high school coach in the world”; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders returned to the military in 1957 and began training to become a C-124 Worldwide qualified Navigator and Flight Examiner; his abilities and leadership skills were quickly realized as he was promoted to Section Commander at Air University, Squadron Officer School, was selected to attend Air Command and Staff College and was elevated to Chief of the Space Navigation Division at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders served with courage and gallantry as a briefing officer in Saigon, Vietnam, in 1971 and 1972, after which service he became the Director of Student Operations at Air University, graduated from Air War College and became a staff officer at Headquarters Air University before retiring as a Colonel in June of 1980; and

WHEREAS, throughout his military career, Mr. Sanders performed his duties with the utmost dedication and professionalism; drawing upon his sterling skills as an officer and his managerial expertise, Brock Sanders became the Executive Director of the Rutherford County United Way in 1981; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Sanders’ sagacious leadership, this worthy organization’s pledges have grown an unprecedented 849 percent, compared to an average increase of 105 percent for other United Way chapters; and

WHEREAS, the Rutherford County United Way has been recognized numerous times for having the highest percent increase in pledges in the nation, a credit to Mr. Sanders’ ability to motivate individuals and participating agencies; and

WHEREAS, his many achievements and accolades aside, Mr. Sanders is most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his high school sweetheart and wife of more than 45 years, Fran Summar Sanders, and their two successful children, James Brockman Sanders III of Troy, Alabama, a Methodist minister, and Stephanie Sanders Corley of Atlanta, an educator; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County, the Murfreesboro community and the state of Tennessee have benefited greatly from Mr. Sanders' dedication and devotion, and upon the occasion of his retirement, he is richly deserving of the respect and commendation of this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we extend to James Brockman (Brock) Sanders, Jr., our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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